

of his children's school or sporting events. He took time out of his busy work schedule to call his children and tell them how proud he was of their accomplishments. Jim raised a determined set of talented children who will honor his memory with their good works for years to come.

We can all learn from Jim and can only hope to have his sense of dedication and compassion. His caring personality brightened the lives of those who knew him. Jim will be missed, but remembered by the hundreds of people whose lives he touched. May he rest in peace.

TRIBUTE TO DR. LOUIS J. AGNESE  
JR.

**HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 16, 2006*

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a person who has made an indelible impact on San Antonio and higher education, Dr. Louis Agnese Jr, the President of the University of the Incarnate Word (UIW.) On March 25, 2006, Dr. Agnese will celebrate his 20th anniversary as President of the university and during his tenure the school has been transformed from a small private school into a world class academic institution. Yet despite the changes at UIW, it remains a school committed to expanding both the minds and consciences of its students. I am proud that San Antonio can call UIW one of its schools, but we are especially thankful that Dr. Agnese has applied his talents and energy to making UIW into the institution that it is.

In 1986, Dr. Agnese was inaugurated as the 8th president of Incarnate Word College. He was the driving force that transformed the school from a college into the University of the Incarnate Word. In addition to the San Antonio campus, UIW now has sites in Corpus Christi, Texas, Guangzhou, China, and Mexico City, Mexico and 80 sister schools in 30 countries. During his presidency, UIW has doubled the size of its faculty, tripled the number of buildings on its main campus, and has greatly increased the school's endowment. Dr. Agnese has done nothing less than remake the school while remaining true to its founders' mission.

In the aftermath of the Civil War, Texas Bishop Claude M. Dubuis decided to establish a new religious congregation, the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word, dedicated to helping the poor and ill. He persuaded three sisters from a cloistered community of nuns in Lyons, France to emigrate to Texas and establish the Santa Rosa Infirmary, the first civilian hospital in San Antonio. The Sisters increased the scope of their mission as new circumstances arose. When they found that the hospital was caring for a significant number of orphans, they began orphanages, which led to starting schools to educate these children.

In 1881, the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word applied for and were granted a state charter to operate hospitals and schools. At first UIW opened and ran elementary and secondary schools but began offering college courses for young women around the turn of the 20th Century. Soon thereafter, the Sisters christened their school the College and Academy of the Incarnate Word.

Much has changed in the last 125 years. Today UIW is the largest Catholic University in Texas and the fourth largest private school. At the same time the school has grown, it remains committed to the core principles of its founders. UIW recognizes that service to others is the highest calling one can pursue. Moreover, Dr. Agnese has lived this credo as he has helped increase opportunities for young people to earn an education and look at the world in a broader way.

UIW truly is an international school with students from all over the world attending its main campus in San Antonio. This kind of diversity teaches young people to embrace and respect the cultural differences that make life enriching but also to recognize the similarities that bind us together.

In addition to increasing the diversity of the student body, Dr. Agnese also pushed to expand the academic programs at UIW and established the university's first Ph.D. program. Moreover, Dr. Agnese and the university have been sensitive to the challenges facing young Latinos seeking higher education and he has helped facilitate this process. Indeed, Dr. Agnese has said that "one of the proudest moments of my life occurred when I was selected as the national Hispanic Educator of the Year in 1996, even though I'm Italian-American."

In 1986, Dr. Louis Agnese had a vision of UIW could become. Yet, he did not just envision UIW as one of Texas' finest academic institutions; he also saw a school that would continue to educate young men and women who would work to improve our community. Knowledge may fire the mind but unless guided by a moral compass, it is little more than pedantry. UIW helps its students gain the moral guidance necessary to implement their education.

Of course, Dr. Agnese is also deeply dedicated to his family and has proven his commitment to San Antonio. He has helped make San Antonio the thriving city it is today and we are the better for his coming here. I wish Dr. Agnese many more years of success at UIW.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 1ST BATTALION,  
69TH INFANTRY OF THE  
NEW YORK NATIONAL GUARD

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 16, 2006*

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry of the New York National Guard who are being honored on St. Patrick's Day in New York City. I know that my distinguished colleagues will join me in extending our appreciation and gratitude to all of the brave members of the armed forces serving in the National Guard and the Reserve, who are so courageously and selflessly dedicated to their fellow Americans.

The National Guard in an integral part of a great tradition in American military history that began during the American Revolution. At that time, our Founding Fathers placed the country's security in the hands of citizen-soldiers who trained and organized into militias in their home colonies. To this day, members of the National Guard must be ready to serve their

state and their country, often at a moment's notice.

The members of the 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry continue to uphold a distinguished tradition in both battle and disaster response. As part of the famous Irish Brigade during the Civil War, the members of the 69th Infantry were renowned for their tenacity on the battlefield, leading Confederate General Robert E. Lee to bestow upon them the nickname of "The Fighting 69th." In acknowledgement of its proud heritage, the Fighting 69th participates each year in New York's St. Patrick's Day Parade.

The Fighting 69th are infantry soldiers—the "guns on the ground"—whose mission is to engage and destroy enemy forces in close combat. In addition to the Civil War, its members have also fought in the Spanish American War, World War I and World War II, where its soldiers served valiantly in the battles of Makin, Saipan and Okinawa, and its members just completed a tour of duty in Iraq, returning to the U.S. six months ago after serving with distinction. Sixteen soldiers in the Manhattan-based 69th National Guard Regiment have died in the Iraq War, including a member who was one of the New York firefighters who raised the American flag above Ground Zero, Christian Engledrum.

In April, six members of the 69th Regiment were awarded Purple Hearts after being wounded by roadside bombs in Iraq. The unit patrolled the infamous road to the Baghdad airport and was stationed primarily in the Sunni Triangle, where most of the insurgent attacks have taken place. In a speech at Fort Drum, New York, Vice President Richard Cheney paid tribute to the Fighting 69th, thanking its members for their "toughness in confronting insurgents around Baghdad." Nine members of the Fighting 69th are continuing to serve on active duty in Iraq today.

The members of the Fighting 69th also have mobilized during times of emergency in their home state of New York. The Battalion Commander, Lt. Col Geoffrey Slack, informs me that the Fighting 69th was the first National Guard unit to arrive on the scene following the devastating terrorist attacks of September 11th, 2001. In the hours after the attacks, the Battalion assisted medical teams treating the wounded and provided significant assistance to rescue and recovery operations, continuing in this mission for nearly a year.

Mr. Speaker, in recognition of its tremendous contributions to civic and public life, I request that my colleagues join me in paying tribute to the Fighting 69th Regiment of the New York State National Guard, who are great New Yorkers and great Americans. All Americans should be grateful for the dedication demonstrated every day by the men and women of the Fighting 69th as well as all of the brave individuals serving in National Guard and Reserve units throughout our nation. Their members' dedication to our country serves as an inspiration to us all.

MARCH IS WOMEN'S HISTORY  
MONTH

**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 16, 2006*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, in March, we celebrate Women's History Month and